

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I am in strong opposition to the Kasich/Shays/Condit amendment, which threatens unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces and resources from Kosovo.

One year ago, Kosovo was a rump province and ethnic cleansing project of Slobodan Milosevic's Greater Serbia. The world watched the systematic campaign of killing, rape, and forced displacement of ethnic Albanians, whose only crime was their religion.

We and NATO were right to intervene, and we still have a job to do. The need in Kosovo for peacekeeping, reconstruction and development of civil and judicial administration is greater than all of the promises by NATO and the U.S. together.

The authors of this amendment are right in one respect. Every diplomatic effort to hold NATO allies to their agreement is entirely appropriate. But threatening to unilaterally withdraw from our freely given commitment just makes the peacekeeping job, so ably done by our deployed men and women—and the reconstruction job—a great deal harder. And if the threat were acted upon, God forbid, it will only lead to giving the final initiative back to Milosevic.

Mr. Chairman, Secretary of State Albright has said that our challenge is to "secure the peace" in Kosovo. This amendment would assure no peace.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lewis-Spence-Murtha-Skelton amendment.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) for making this amendment a bipartisan amendment. We could not do it without them.

There are not many people here on this floor this evening, but, frankly, the folks that are here, are not the people that I am trying to reach. I am trying to reach the people who are in the offices listening and the American people on C-Span that might see this.

I am going to say what I said at our Republican conference this morning. And, I will say it to everyone now. We are considering emergency supplemental legislation. In prior years, we have talked about supplementals, emergency supplementals, real emergency supplementals. This is a real, real emergency supplemental from the standpoint of defense.

I know we all have different priorities. We have talked about them a lot today. We are going to continue to talk about them—all the things that are in this supplemental bill, drugs and all the rest.

But, I want to remind everyone, we would not be here as a free society, secure and prosperous, if it had not been made possible by our military, starting with the revolution when we gained our independence. Since that time, we have had World War I and World War II, big threats. Our forefathers, our fathers, our grandfathers, and their families sacrificed their lives and their health to make sure that we are free and secure, and to create this environment that permits us to discuss these matters as they come along.

There is a poem that is often attributed to General MacArthur, and also to a priest that served with the General, Father Denis Edward O'Brien, U.S. Marine Corps, that I believe sums up just how much we owe the freedom and liberty that we so often take for granted, to the military. It goes like this:

It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Some people these days talk about the arms race. Many people say we spend money on defense than all the rest of the world put together. We have to. Who else is able to do it? We are the only ones. To save ourselves, we have to save the rest of the world along with it.

The Cold War is over, yes. I agree. But, President Reagan, with a Democrat Congress, helped to restore the military and that is what brought about the end of the Cold War—we beat the Soviet Union in the arms race. They could not keep up. They could not do it any longer. That is what ended the Cold War. Today, we face a similar situation. We have more threats today than ever before. We still have the nuclear threat from now Russia, but now we have China and North Korea and all the rest of them, and we are not prepared to defend against those threats.

We also have other threats now—weapons of mass destruction other than nuclear—chemical, biological, from these same countries and lesser countries. This threat is out there, and we are unprepared to deal with it.

Finally, today we are no longer strong enough to fight one conventional war. Kosovo was a wakeup call. We devoted all of our air assets, just about everything, to that air war. And what would have happened if something big had broken out somewhere else in the world? We could not have handled it, certainly not without a large loss of life.

Now it is our turn. We have to step up to the plate. We have to make sure that our country is free, first of all, and allows us the

environment to consider these other priorities, which I can sympathize with. The administration, I will give them credit, has come a long way, but not nearly enough. This amendment is going to help a whole lot, but still not enough.

I will conclude with a personal note: Twelve years ago, God gave me a second chance at life when I received a double lung transplant. God has clearly seen fit to leave me here on earth for some reason. I have dedicated this extension of my life to doing the best I can to preserve our freedom. But, I cannot do it alone. Our military cannot do it alone. We need your help. We need everyone's help. When the time comes, I want to be able to say, "I've done my best." I want you to be able to say the same.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
STEVEN CHEN**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues an article regarding Representative Steven Chen, who serves as the head of the Taipei Cultural and Economic Representative Office in Washington. The article, which ran in today's New York Times, is a fitting tribute to Taiwan's unofficial Ambassador, who has worked diligently to promote and expand relations between the United States and the 22 million citizens of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chen is a thorough professional who has enjoyed a long and distinguished life as a career diplomat. He has represented his government all over the world, including postings in the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia. His experience in the United States also is extensive. During the past 25 years, Ambassador Chen served in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and he has spent the last three years as the Representative in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain my colleagues would agree that Steven Chen's charm and quiet demeanor have served Taiwan well. Whether meeting Members of Congress in their offices or Executive Branch officials in a more neutral setting, Ambassador Chen has always worked to make certain the United States and Taiwan remain strong friends.

Mr. Speaker, as the article notes, Ambassador Chen is planning to retire shortly. I am certain all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Steven Chen on a distinguished diplomatic career. We in the Congress are indeed fortunate to know him, and we wish him well in the years ahead.

[From the New York Times, April 3, 2000]

A DIPLOMATIC OUTSIDER WHO LOBBIES INSIDE
WASHINGTON

(By Philip Shenon)

WASHINGTON.—At an embassy that is not an embassy, the ambassador who is not an ambassador can only imagine what it is like to be a full-fledged member of Washington's diplomatic corps.

"In the evenings, you attend cocktail parties, champagne dances," Stephen Chen said wistfully of the black-tie world from which he is largely excluded. "This is the very routine, beautiful picture of the diplomat in a textbook."